ongress Asked To Avert Disaster y Accepting Grouping Without Reservation

SIR ABDUR RAHIM, former President, Central Assembly in a statement from New Delhi on Thursday expressed the hope that the Congress in accepting the Grouping provision of the state Paper would do so without reservations, and both they and the League would find themselves able to come to a clear understanding on all the outstanding problems facing them including major communal issues.

He said: "In a few days momentous decisions will be taken by the two most influential political bodies of the British India which will not only affect the life and the happiness of their followers but of numerous millions who are not committed to party politics. It is time that the situation, difficult as it is, should be tackled and dispassionately examined from a non-partisan angle.

"The question of Grouping is in the forefront at the moment, but unfortunately its merits have been almost obscured by party obsession. The Muslim League has not lost the fight for Pakistan, because this part of the Cabinet Mission's scheme was something saved out of the wreck. And that fact alone seems to have been enough to rouse the violent opposition of the Congress.

"It is, however, difficult to understand how the principle of grouping of the three provinces on the north-west including Punjab, Baluchistan and of the two provinces on the north-east will particularly benefit the Muslims or disadvantage the Sikhs or the Hindus inhabiting those regions. The fact is that from the points of view of general administration and economic development in those parts of the country and of the defence of India in the future, this division is an obvious necessity.

SUBSIDIES TO PROVINCES

"The constitutional [illegible] of the Cabinet Mission the Union, whose functions and powers are strictly limited as mentioned in paragraph 15 (1) (a) (iii) of the State Paper of May 16th, cannot be called upon to pay subsidies to the "proud" Hindu Frontier province and to Assam as [illegible] Sind and Orissa. This was essentially in accordance with the Congress scheme though that part of the scheme which the Congress sought to [illegible] the union being free to help [illegible] in its economic and general development was rejected in Paris [illegible] and it.

"[illegible] to the British provinces will have to depend for [illegible] on the common resources [illegible] supplement its own. The [illegible] each of the three provinces [illegible] should suffice for [illegible] population after making [illegible] to the union [illegible] development as it [illegible]

"[illegible] independence [illegible] last by Group- [illegible] that event [illegible] than at [illegible] the Hindus of [illegible] and the Sikhs and [illegible] Punjab will benefit [illegible] as the Muslims [illegible] that ground, alone [illegible] that the Hindus [illegible] to the British [illegible] as they think [illegible] Muslim domination.

MISSION'S ANXIETY

"[illegible] the facts into [illegible] that I see no [illegible] quoting any such [illegible] constitutional [illegible] and sentiments, [illegible] of any large [illegible] must be duly [illegible]

"[illegible] Mission who were [illegible] the very genuine [illegible] of the Muslims lest [illegible] subjected to a perpetual [illegible], have recommended [illegible] the adoption of [illegible] will assure to the Muslims [illegible] all matters vital to their [illegible] and economic and [illegible]

"[illegible] good reason why the [illegible] could not be applied to [illegible] Hindus, the Sikhs and [illegible] Castes in Group B and [illegible] be practicable. The [illegible]ttee will doubtless consider [illegible] of the question in dealing [illegible]hts and interests of the [illegible]

"[illegible] that the Congress in [illegible] grouping provision of [illegible] will do so without reservation that both they and the [illegible] themselves able to come [illegible]derstanding on all the outstanding [illegible] facing them including [illegible]munal issues as envisaged [illegible]5 (II) and 19 (VII)."—API.

DEDICATION OF CHINESE REPUBLICAN CONSTITUTION

NANKING, Wednesday: Generalissimo Chiang-Kai-shek today dedicated China's newly promulgated Republican constitution to Dr. Sun Yat Sen. In a short impressive ceremony at the mausoleum built in commemoration of the father of the Chinese Republic, the Generalissimo addressing the marble statue of Dr. Sun Yat Sen said: "On this first day of the 36th year of the Republic of China, we make this statement to the soul of the father of China, Dr. Sun Yat Sen. After years of preparation, the constitution—the foundation of the Republic—had been adopted.

It follows your will. Return of administrative power to the people is in step with the world tide. Although the constitution has been completed there are still great difficulties ahead, but we pledge ourselves to carry out the constitution impartially. The country will work as a whole unit to build a strong rational foundation and establish an utopian world".—Reuter.

Allahabad League Condemns Local Authorities

ALLAHABAD, Wednesday.

THE City Muslim League Working Committee held an emergency meeting today and passed a resolution condemning the local authorities for "mishandling the communal situation" and their acts of commission and omission due to which Muslims have lost all confidence in them.

The Committee charged the authorities with having made no preparations on Guru Govind Singh's birthday. The Committee also held that the arrests of Mr. Syed Mohd. Taqi, Secretary City Muslim League and Mr. Baqar Usmani, Member of the Working Committee were absolutely unwarranted.

The Working Committee advised the Muslims to bear with fortitude and courage the highhandedness of the authorities and remain perfectly peaceful.—OPI.

SEPARATION OF SINGAPORE, A CONSTITUTIONAL VICE

SINGAPORE, Thursday.—Mr Walter Fletcher, British Member of Parliament, and Conservative party's Far East Committee's chairman, yesterday told Malacca that he considered that separation of Singapore from the Federation of Malaya was "a fundamental vice of Malayan constitutionalists."

However, he suggested that the Federation proposals were an advance on the previous proposed constitution. Mr Fletcher replied to the Chinese leader, Tan Chen's assertion that the new constitution was basically anti-Chinese in conception by stating that citizenship proposals were fair and reasonable.—Reuter.

BIHAR OFFICIALS TO MEET MR. GANDHI

PATNA, Thursday: A deputation on behalf of the Government of Bihar consisting of Mr. Krishna Ballabh Sahaye, Revenue Minister, Bihar, Mr. W. Houlton and Mr. T. P. Singh, Relief Commissioner, left Patna last night for Srirampur (East Bengal) to acquaint Mr. Gandhi with the correct position of the communal situation in Bihar and the relief measures taken by Government.—API.

HAMBURG POWER GENERATOR FOR REPARATIONS

HAMBURG, Wednesday: Two Hamburg power plants at present supplying 50 per cent of the city's electricity, are being requisitioned for reparations and dismantled.

Instructions to do this came as a surprise both to British and German officials here and protests have been sent to the Military Government Economic Division at Minden asking for a reconsideration of the decision.—GLOBE.

Chinese Students' Demonstrations Against US Forces

SHANGHAI, Thursday.

ONE thousand Chinese University students heaped abuse on American forces in China in a New Year's day parade past American military quarters yesterday.

Whipped into a frenzy by cheery leaders, the demonstrators demanded immediate withdrawal of American Forces and a change in the United States policy toward China.

"Get out or we will throw you out" and "China is not an American colony" read some of the banners. The banners had been placed on buildings, buses, trucks and cars.

One of the themes of the banners read: "American soldiers are worse than the Japanese," and was accompanied by c.rtoons depicting an American soldier knifing a Chinese and a United States marine trampling a Chinese woman.

The demonstration was similar to student parades in Peiping and Tientsin over the week-end. They originated in Chinese accusations that two American marines raped a Chinese girl, but later were attributed generally to anti-American sentiment.

Several Americans, including an army lieutenant and an Associated Press of America photographer were molested during a particularly vehement anti-American demonstration by 1,000 Chinese university students here yesterday.

American soldiers and sailors exercised great restraint as the paraders shook their fists and shouted "get out you beasts."—APA.

Aung San to Lead Burma Council Delegation

LONDON, Wednesday.

THE Executive Council of the Governor of Burma have accepted the invitation foreshadowed in Prime Minister Clement Attlee's statement of December 28 to send a representative group to visit this country in the near future for discussions, cables Fraser Wighton, Reuter's political correspondent.

The party which will be led by U Aung San, Deputy Chairman of the Council, is expected to arrive in time for the talks to begin in the week beginning January 13.

The other delegates will be U Ba Pe, Commerce Member, U Thakin My, Home Member, U. Tin Tutt, Finance Member and U. Ba Sein, Transport and Communications Member. It is hoped that the delegation will also include J. Saw, former Premier, who is the education member.

Sharp Decline In France's Population

PARIS, Wednesday.

THE population of France has shown a big decline since 1936. The figures of the census held last spring published here show that the total fall is 1,390,133 or 3.3 per cent.

France's population is now composed of 38,847,194 Frenchmen and 1,670,729 foreigners. Since the last census, the foreigners have declared by 782,778, while the number of French fall by 606,355. Over 300,000 in the forces and in the merchant navy missed the count through being out of France on the census day.

The population of most of the big cities has decreased which is indicative of a general fall in industrial and commercial activity since the war. It is felt in official circles that the decline of the general population draws attention once again to the rising seriousness of the country's manpower problem which is now overshadowing all others.—Globe.

Abolition of Salt Tax Advocated

KARACHI, Wednesday.

THE abolition of Salt Tax was advocated by a number of delegates to the All-India Economic Conference yesterday when discussion was held on the question of the structure of taxation in India, Prof. Rudra presided.

Dr. Ghosh (Bengal), Dr. R. V. Rao (Madras), Mr. M. C. Munshi (Delhi), spoke on the subject favouring immediate abolition of the salt tax. Dr. Rao felt that the Interim Government would abolish the duty which would go some way to raise the sub-human standards of the Indian masses while Dr. Ghosh pleaded for the free manufacture of salt and referred to the salt famine which Bengal experienced during the war.

POLICE CASE AGAINST MP DISMISSED

LONDON, Wednesday.

MR. WILLIAM G. COVE, Labour Member of Parliament for Aberavon, pleaded not guilty at the Bow Street Police Court today to obstructing a police officer in the execution of his duty and the charge was dismissed under probation of the Offenders Act.

The charge arose out of an incident in a London restaurant last night in which Mr. Cove and two members of the Indian community in London were involved.

The Indians, friends of Mr. Cove, are shortly returning to India and they were having a farewell dinner. Mr. Cove told the Magistrate, Sir Bertrand Watson that two men came into the restaurant and said that one of the men there had stolen a coat. One of the Indians realised that he had taken it and returned it.

The Police Sergeant said he visited the restaurant in plain clothes and while talking to the man against whom the allegation was made Mr. Cove came up and said: "I am a Member of Parliament. I want to know something about this."

The Sergeant told him that he was police officer and that if he (Mr Cove) interfered he would be obstructing the police in the execution of his duty. The constable had to force Mr. Cove to release his hold on the man against whom the allegation was made.

After Mr. Cove had expressed his profound regret for having done anything and said he did not volunteer that he was a Member of Parliament except in answer to a question, the Magistrate dismissed the charge.—Reuter.

WIZARD AND HIS OWL GO TO PRISON

LISBON, Wednesday: Sitting in a cell in Lisbon jail with his pet owl on his shoulder is Laurin Pereira, who is awaiting trial on the charges of being a wizard.

When police arrested Pereira in his home in the old part of the city, he insisted that his owl should come along too. The police agreed.—Globe.

"British And American Armies Will Soon be Forced Into A Single Fighting Arm"

PARIS, Thursday.

BRITISH and American armies will soon be forced into a single fighting arm, extending from Asia Minor to Japan, from the pole to the Rio Grande, the newspaper "Aurore" said in a new year's forecast on Wednesday giving an account of an impending Anglo-American military and economic alliance.

Equipment arms training and methods of all English speaking armies will become uniform, the newspaper predicted in a copyright article, pointing to Canada as the pivotal scene of this worldwide integration foreshadowed by the interlocking Anglo-American commands of World War II.

This eventual unification of British and American and probably dominion troops will begin, the newspaper said, on American soil where the methods of West Point will be used as models for training future British officers.

British arms will be standardised with American equipment, a process begun during the last war when many British units were supplied from the United States through Lend-Lease shipments, "Aurore" added. Thus in any future engagement British armies could be outfitted from the potentially staggering output of American factories without any "changeover"..difficulties.

Under the Pact, Canada has been selected as the first proving ground of Anglo-American unity, "Aurore" said, citing the "certain" role Arctic regions would play in any future conflict.

American and Canadian general staffs are already grading information and research on the performance of men, equipment, arms and planes in the Polar regions, the newspaper declared.

The Pact, as reported by "Aurore", provides for a unified military command to direct Anglo-American operations and a common economic G.H.Q. to marshal resources of the two nations. It would be open to any other power which can show it has no imperialist designs.—APA.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

DISPOSALS

(SECTION MMH OF 3rd CATALOGUE)

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Antigas Stores, A. R. P. and Fire-fighting Equipment: Fire-fighting Equipment; Other miscellaneous A. R. P. stores.

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